



Strasbourg, 29 January 2026

CJ-OR(2025)01 rev

**COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON ACCESS TO ORIGINS  
(CJ-OR)**

**CJ-OR's TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR 2025-2026**

**Adopted by the Committee of Ministers' Deputies  
at their 1543rd (Budget) meeting, 18 November 2025**

*(extract from document CM(2025)131-add final)*

## Revised Terms of reference of the Committee of Experts on access to origins (CJ-OR) 2025-2026

Set up by the Committee of Ministers under Article 17 of the Statute of the Council of Europe and in accordance with [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

### Deliverable

Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, and of the European Committee on Legal Co-operation (CDCJ), the CJ-OR is instructed to complete the following deliverable within the following deadline:

|  | Priority<br>▼ | Deadline<br>▼ |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| 1. Draft Recommendation on the rights of donor-conceived persons to know their origins | 1             | 31/12/2026    |

### Composition

#### • Members

The Committee of Experts shall be composed of 10 representatives of the highest possible rank with appropriate expertise and knowledge of law, policy and practice in their respective countries relating to family law and/or legal, medical and scientific policy in relation to technological and legal aspects impacting on the rights of donors and donor-conceived persons, including children and their access to information, of which six designated by the member States and selected by the CDCJ, three independent experts appointed by the Secretary General, and the chairperson designated by the CDCJ from amongst its members.

The Committee shall be composed in accordance with Article 6 of Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of these 10 members. Other member States may send a representative to the meetings of the Committee of Experts without defrayal of expenses.

Each member of the Committee shall have one vote. Where a government designates more than one member, only one of them is entitled to take part in the voting.

#### • Participants

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and at the charge of their corresponding administrative budgets:

- Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe;
- European Court of Human Rights;
- Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe;
- Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO);
- European Committee on Organs, Tissues and Cells (CD-P-TO);
- Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child (CDENF);
- Committees or other bodies of the Council of Europe engaged in related work, as appropriate.

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- European Union (one or more representatives, including, as appropriate, the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA));
- Observer States to the Council of Europe: Canada, Holy See, Japan, Mexico, United States of America;
- United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC);
- United Nations International Law Commission (ILC);
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR);
- Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH);
- International Commission on Civil Status (ICCS);
- World Health Organisation (WHO).

- Observers

The following may send representatives, without the right to vote and without defrayal of expenses:

- non-member States with which the Council of Europe has a Neighbourhood Partnership including relevant co-operation activities;
- States having been invited by decision of the Committee of Ministers to participate in the negotiations;
- interested organisations from Civil Society: the Council of Europe welcomes and promotes the widest participation of civil society, in line with the Guidance note on Civil Society Participation in the Intergovernmental Work of the Council of Europe [CDDEM\(2024\)14](#), as Observers. Observer status may be requested in accordance with Article 8 of [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.

## Working methods

The rules of procedure of the Committee are governed by [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3-consolidated](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods. Online participation in meetings will be available.

| Plenary meetings ▼ |         |          |      |
|--------------------|---------|----------|------|
|                    | Members | Meetings | Days |
| 2024               | -       | -        | -    |
| 2025               | 10      | 2        | 3    |
| 2026               | 10      | 2        | 3    |

The CJ-OR will appoint from amongst its members one Gender Equality Rapporteur.

## Budgetary information\*

|      | Meetings | Days        | Members    | Plenary | Bureau | Working groups | Secretariat  |
|------|----------|-------------|------------|---------|--------|----------------|--------------|
|      | per year | per meeting | reimbursed | in €K   | in €K  | in €K          | (A, B)       |
| 2024 | -        | -           | -          | -       | -      | -              | -            |
| 2025 | 2        | 3           | 10         | 50.4    | -      | -              | 0.5 A: 0.5 B |
| 2026 | 2        | 3           | 10         | 46.0    | -      | -              | 0.5 A: 0.5 B |

\*The costs include the per diem, travel costs, interpretation, translation and document printing. These costs are calculated on the basis of standard costs.